

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02198 160837Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
IGA-02 /065 W  
-----161209Z 108038 /22

R 151615Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4282  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CSAF WASHDC  
OSAF WASHDC/SAFIL  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD  
ASD WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MILI, POL, DA  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PREPARES FOR F-16 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

REF: OSAF MESSAGE 141700Z APR 77

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE HAVE BEEN  
RECEIVING IN HELPING THE DANISH GOVERNMENT COPE WITH THE  
"TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT" CREATED BY THE GAO REPORT ON THE  
F-16. ADMIRAL ROLDHOLM ALSO HAS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION  
FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL REGARDING  
F-16 COPRODUCTION OFFSET DATA.

2. COPIES OF THE CONTROVERSIAL GAO REPORT ON  
THE F-16 WERE RECEIVED BY THE DANES ON MONDAY, APRIL 11.  
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MORE THAN 100 COPIES OF THE REPORT WERE REPRODUCED  
AND ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED TO APPROPRIATE DANISH  
AUTHORITIES. THE REPORT SHOULD BE DIGESTED BY  
ADVOCATES AND CRITICS OF THE AIRPLANE PRIOR TO DEFENSE  
MINISTER MOLLER'S PRESENTATION AND WILL ASSIST IN  
BALANCING THE ONE-SIDED LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT OF THE  
REPORT.

3. DANES' BEST ESTIMATE OF WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN LETTER OF OFFER, BASED ON PARLIAMENTARY MECHANICS NOW BEGUN, IS MAY 10. THIS WELL, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON RESULTS OF MOLLER'S PRESENTATION NEXT WEEK.

4. ON APRIL 15 I DISCUSSED DANISH PROBLEMS OF SIGNING THE LOA WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN. HE FRANKLY SAID THAT AMERICANS HAD "SHOT THEMSELVES IN THE FOOT" WITH THE GAO REPORT AND ANY SUBSEQUENT DENIALS STATEMENTS BY GAO NEVER CARRY THE SAME WEIGHT AS THE INITIAL (CRITICAL) RELEASE. EIGIL JORGENSEN REITERATED THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARLIAMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE IN TIME TO MEET THE MAY 2 DEADLINE. HE, HOWEVER, HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE REMAINING PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AND THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE THE FINAL COMMITMENT TO THE F-16 PROGRAM BY SIGNING THE LOA.

5. I AVAILED MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN OVER CONTINUED DANISH MEDIA CONCENTRATION ON THE 58 PERCENT OFFSET "COMMITMENT" WHICH THE MEDIA INSIST WAS MADE TO DENMARK ITSELF. I TOLD EIGIL JORGENSEN WHAT I HAD TOLD MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORLA MOLLER AND ADMIRAL ROLDHOLM EARLIER IN THE WEEK, I.E. THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS TO PERPETUATE THE MYTH OF SUCH A COMMIT-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT WHICH, AS ALL PARTIES KNOW, WAS TO THE EUROPEAN CONSORITUM AS A WHOLE.

6. PERHAPS WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS ON THE 58 PERCENT QUESTION BECAUSE TODAY'S RADIO CARRIED A LENGTHY REPORT FROM THE DANISH RADIO REPORTER IN AMERICA WHO STRESSED THAT THE COMMITMENT WAS TO THE FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS A WHOLE AND NOT TO DENMARK ALONE. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DANISH COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY THAT THIS WAS THE CASE BUT CLAIMED THAT DENMARK HAD RECEIVED ORAL ASSURANCES THAT THIS PERCENTAGE WOULD ALSO BE REACHED IN DENMARK. SUCH A STATEMENT IS AT LEAST A STEP BACK FROM EARLIER CLAIMS, ALTHOUGH IT IS STILL IS NOT ACCURATE.  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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